Import Health Standard

for

Zoo Rodents from Australia, the European Union, and the United States of America

Short name: Zoorodic.spe

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
P.O Box 2526
Wellington 6011
New Zealand
Issuing Authority

This standard is issued under section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act).

Dated at Wellington this day of April 2012

Director-General Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
(Issued under delegated authority)

Version number 1
PART A: INTRODUCTION

Background

1. This document, issued under section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, is the Import Health Standard for Zoo Rodents from Australia, the European Union and the United States of America.

2. If this standard needs to be amended or revoked urgently, or the Director General or delegate considers that an amendment is minor, the amendment or revocation may be carried out without prior consultation.

3. Where the requirements of this import health standard have been complied with, a Biosecurity authority/direction may be issued under section 25 of the Biosecurity Act. The Biosecurity Act can be accessed at http://www.legislation.govt.nz/.

Scope

4. This standard specifies the requirements that must be met to import, into New Zealand, zoo rodents from Australia, the European Union and the United States of America.

5. For the purposes of this standard, the rodents must come from premises that are under veterinary supervision, and must not have been caught in the wild.

6. For the purposes of this standard, zoo rodents are restricted to the following species:
   - African crested porcupine: *Hystrix cristat, Hystrix afericaeaustralis*
   - Brazilian agouti: *Dasyprocta leporina, Dasyprocta aguti*
   - Capybara: *Hydrochaerus hydrochaeris (Hydrochoeris hydrochaeris)*
   - Patagonian mara: *Dolichotis patagonum*.

Importer’s responsibilities

7. It is the importer’s responsibility to ensure that they are compliant with the current relevant import health standard. Current versions of import health standards are available on the MAF New Zealand website: http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/ihs/search. A register of import health standards is also available for inspection at the office of the Director-General during normal business hours.

8. The costs of MAF in performing functions relating to the importation of rodents shall be recovered in accordance with the Biosecurity Act and any regulations made under that Act. All costs involved with documentation, transport, storage and obtaining a biosecurity authority shall be borne by the importer or agent.

9. It is the responsibility of the importer to ensure that the consignment is accompanied by a permit to export in accordance with the legislation of the country of origin and the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES): http://www.cites.org The importer is advised to clarify the status of the species of animal in relation to international agreements on their trade prior to export. Material arriving in New Zealand without the correct CITES permit/s may be subject to seizure by the New Zealand Department of Conservation. [Note: Any requirement for the CITES or other conservation-related documentation must be met by the exporter/importer and is independent of this certification.]
10. The importer must obtain a permit to import prior to proceeding with importation.

11. The importer must notify the date, expected time, port of arrival and the flight number or ship’s name to the New Zealand Official Veterinarian at the airport/port of entry at least 7 days in advance of importation. Email: liveanimalssector@maf.govt.nz

Definitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Import Health Standard Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Animal Imports Team Manager</strong></td>
<td>The Animal Imports Team Manager, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Biosecurity New Zealand, or any person who for the time being may lawfully exercise and perform the delegated power and functions of the Animal Imports Team Manager.</td>
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<td><strong>Approved country</strong></td>
<td>Australia, the European Union and the United States of America.</td>
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<td><strong>Biosecurity authority</strong></td>
<td>Written authority from an inspector, given under Section 25 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, to move uncleared goods from a transitional facility or biosecurity control area to another transitional facility, containment facility or biosecurity control area, or to export those goods from New Zealand.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Certifying official</strong></td>
<td>A person authorised by the Veterinary Authority of the exporting country to sign international veterinary certificates.</td>
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<td><strong>Chief Technical Officer</strong></td>
<td>A person appointed a chief technical officer under section 101 of the Biosecurity Act.</td>
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<td><strong>Competent Authority</strong></td>
<td>The Veterinary Authority or other governmental authority of an OIE member having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the OIE Code in the whole territory.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Equivalence</strong></td>
<td>Acceptance by the Director-General of Agriculture and Forestry or person with delegated authority that the circumstances relating to the importation of a consignment are such that the health status of the consignment is equivalent to the health status of a consignment that complies with the requirements of the import health standard.</td>
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<td><strong>IATA</strong></td>
<td>The International Air Transport Association.</td>
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<td><strong>Inspector</strong></td>
<td>A person who is appointed an inspector under Section 103 of the Biosecurity Act 1993. (Explanatory note: An inspector is appointed to administer and enforce the provisions of the Biosecurity Act, and in respect of new organisms, the provisions of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996).</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>MAF</strong></td>
<td>The New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Official Veterinarian</strong></td>
<td>A veterinarian authorised by the Veterinary Administration of the country to perform certain designated official tasks associated with animal health and/or public health and inspections of commodities and, when appropriate, to certify in conformity with the provisions of the Section 5.2 of the OIE Terrestrial Code pertaining to principles of certification.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OIE</strong></td>
<td>World Organisation for Animal Health.</td>
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PART B. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility

12. The animals have been resident in one or more government registered, or licensed, zoos or wildlife parks in an approved country or countries in this import health standard since birth.

13. The animals must not be in the last trimester of pregnancy on the date of export.

14. The animals must be of an accepted post-wean age for the species at departure and weaned, healthy and fit to travel.

15. The animals and the premises in which the animals reside must have been free of quarantine restrictions for at least 90 days prior to the date of export.

Permit to import

16. A permit to import is required for the importation of all rodents into New Zealand.

An application form for a permit to import can be obtained from the MAF website: [http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/forms/imports-live-animals-into-trans-facility](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/forms/imports-live-animals-into-trans-facility) or by contacting:
Animal Imports
Import Export Directorate, Standards
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
PO Box 2526
Wellington
New Zealand
Email: animalimports@maf.govt.nz
17. The importer must supply the following information:
   - name and address of exporter;
   - number, sex, age, species and microchip transponder identification of the animal;
   - date of the proposed importation;
   - name and address of the transitional/containment facility in New Zealand to which the consignment is to proceed following importation;
   - a letter from the New Zealand Official Veterinarian supervising the transitional facility indicating that the facility is available for this consignment;
   - port of arrival, and route and means of transport to the transitional facility.

18. The permit to import will be issued for a single consignment.

Documentation accompanying the consignment

19. Documentation presented in accordance with the requirements of this import health standard must be original (unless otherwise specified), in English, and clearly legible. Inadequate documentation may result in delays in obtaining biosecurity authority or rejection of the consignment.

20. The consignment must be accompanied by:
   - a signed copy of the permit to import; AND
   - health certification that meets the requirements of PART C. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION.

21. The Official Veterinarian of the exporting country must sign, date and stamp each page of the veterinary certificate and any documents that form part of the extended certificate.

22. A copy of all documentation must be sent to the New Zealand Official Veterinarian at the airport/port of entry at least 72 hours in advance of importation. Email: liveanimalsector@maf.govt.nz

Transport

23. In the case of transport by:
   - Air: the transport facilities and arrangements must meet the requirements published in the IATA Live Animal Regulations.
   - Sea: the transport facilities and arrangements must have been inspected and meet the requirements of the Australian Marine Orders Part 43, Issue 2 (which is equivalent to the New Zealand Marine Rules Part 24C).

24. No animals, other than those qualified for entry into New Zealand (and with permission from MAF), are permitted to be transported with the rodents on the aircraft or ship.

25. The use of straw or hay as bedding is not permitted. Only sterilised peat, soft board or other inert approved product may be used.
26. The door of the transport container must be sealed with a seal approved by the government of the country of origin before the container is loaded in the country of origin. The number or mark on the seal must be recorded in the zoosanitary certificate by the Official Veterinarian. The construction of the container and the placement of the seal must be such that the container cannot be readily opened without breaking the seal. If the container is opened during shipment it must be resealed and a certificate detailing the circumstances provided by an Official Veterinarian, Port Authority, or captain of the aircraft. Instructions to this effect must be attached to the outside of the transport container.

27. Trans-shipment in any third country may only occur if pre-approved by MAF.


Biosecurity authority

29. On the rodents’ arrival in New Zealand, an Official Veterinarian may give a biosecurity authorisation under section 25 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 for the animals to move to the transitional facility named in the permit to import.

30. Any unused feed, bedding and faecal material not in the crate must be destroyed by a MAF-approved method.

Transitional facility

31. Following biosecurity authorisation being given, the animals must proceed directly to the transitional facility.

32. The animals shall remain in the transitional facility for no less than 10 days, or for a longer period as specified in the biosecurity authorisation under section 27 of the Biosecurity Act.

33. As soon as practical after arrival in the transitional facility, the animals must be subject to such testing, treatments or procedures as is required to diagnose a disease, ascertain the presence or absence of any pest or unwanted organism or make an assessment of measures taken to eradicate any pest or unwanted organism, including:
   • verification of the microchip identification of the animals; AND
   • inspection under the supervision of the supervising Official Veterinarian for ticks. If ticks are found, the animals must be retreated and reexamined until the animals are found to be free from evidence of ectoparasites.

34. If any animal fails a test or shows signs of disease, the Animal Imports Team Manager or delegate may give reasonable directions to (a) treat the animal or (b) destroy the animal (without recompense). In exercising these powers, the Animal Imports Team Manager will primarily take into account the need to effectively manage biosecurity risks arising from the imported animal. The Animal Imports Team Manager may offer the importer the option of re-exporting the animals to the country of origin (at the importer’s expense) if this is consistent with the primary objective stated above. The Animal Imports Team Manager can also authorise the animal to be held as long as necessary for the importer to obtain a biosecurity authorisation to containment.
35. On satisfactory completion of the post arrival quarantine period, and providing that the documentation meets all requirements noted under PART C ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION and the consignment meets the conditions of ELIGIBILITY, the supervising Official Veterinarian will authorise the animals be moved from the transitional facility to a containment facility, approved to MAF Standard 154.03.04 Containment Facilities for Zoo Animals: http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/border/transitional-facilities/animals/154-03-04.htm

36. All costs of testing, treatment, transport, quarantine servicing and veterinary supervision must be borne by the importer.

37. The crates must be cleaned and disinfected and stored until the end of quarantine. After completion of quarantine all feed, bedding material and faeces from the transitional facility and crate must be destroyed by a MAF-approved method.

38. The animals and their offspring must remain permanently in a containment facility and may only be transferred to another containment facility with the prior permission of the Animal Imports Team Manager or delegate.

Equivalence

39. The import health standard has been agreed as suitable for trade between New Zealand and Australia, the European Union and USA. It is expected that the consignment will meet the conditions in every respect.

40. Occasionally it may be found that, due to circumstances beyond the control of the importer or exporter, a consignment does not comply with the requirements in this import health standard. In such cases, a permit to import application may be made, equivalence granted and import permit issued at the discretion of MAF. The following information must be forwarded by the certifying government’s Competent Authority for an equivalence to be considered:

- which clause/s of the zoosanitary certificate cannot be met and how this has occurred;
- the reason the consignment is considered to be of an ‘equivalent health’ status;
- the reasons why the Competent Authority of the country of origin believes this proposal should be acceptable to MAF and their recommendation for its acceptance.

PART C: ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATE

The following Model Zoosanitary Certificate is approved to accompany imports of rodents into New Zealand from Australia, the European Union and USA.

1. Species of rodent:
   To: NEW ZEALAND
   Permit to import number: 
   Exporting Country:
   Competent Authority:

2. IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMALS
   Microchip number:
Site of microchip:
Other identification (eg ARKS number):
Sex:
Date of birth:
Total number of animals:

3. ORIGIN OF THE ANIMAL
Name and address of exporter:
Place of origin of animal:
Port of embarkation:

SANITARY INFORMATION
I,……………………………………….…….., an Official Veterinarian authorised by the
Competent Authority of the country of origin of the rodents, certify after due enquiry that the
rodents described above satisfy the following requirements:

4. The animals have been resident in one or more government registered, or licensed,
zoos or wildlife parks in the approved country or countries in this import health
standard since birth.

5. The animals and the premises in which the animals reside have been free of
quarantine restrictions for the 90 days prior to the scheduled date of export.

6. The premises in the country of origin in which the animals for export have been
resident are under permanent veterinary supervision, and a health monitoring
programme is followed including necropsies, and microbiological and parasitological
testing.

Pre-export isolation
7. The animals were held in pre-export isolation (PEI):
   • for a minimum period of 30 days prior to export; AND
   • in premises that were approved and supervised by an Official Veterinarian;
     AND
   • isolated from other animals not of equivalent health status; AND
   • the animals and all in-contact animals were free from clinical signs of
     infectious disease.

8. The quarantine premises had an impervious washable floor and walls. Prior to
housing the animals, the premises were thoroughly cleaned and spraying with an
acaricide. Prior to entering PEI, the animals were carefully examined and groomed so
as to be free from all contaminating plant material. Bedding and feed used was clean
and free of evidence of contamination with ticks and weeds/weed seeds. Straw, grass
and hay were not used. Bedding was removed every 10 days and the premises
thoroughly cleaned and sprayed with acaricide.

Tests and treatments
9. Babesia species
   a. The rodents originate from premises where babesiosis caused by species exotic to
      New Zealand has not been confirmed by laboratory testing in any resident species in
      the previous 3 years OR
   b. During PEI the rodents were tested by serology by a MAF-approved method, with
      negative results.
   Test type ………………………………………………………………………………………
Test result: .................................................................................................................. 
Date of test: ..................................................................................................................

(strike out option not used)

10. **Leptospira species**
During PEI the rodents were treated with an antibiotic effective in clearing leptospires:
........................................................................................................................................
Active ingredient(s): ........................................................................................................
Dose rate: ........................................................................................................................
Dates of treatment: ...........................................................................................................

11. **Ticks**
The zoo rodents were treated with an acaricide 7 to 10 days prior to entering PEI and during the 48 hours prior to entering PEI, and thoroughly examined for ectoparasites at least 10 days after entering PEI. If ectoparasites were found, the rodents were re-treated and re-examined every 10 days post treatment until clear of ectoparasites on examination.

**Treatment 1:** ..............................................................................................................
Product used: ................................................................................................................
Active ingredient and concentration: ..............................................................................
Date: ..............................................................................................................................

**Treatment 2:** ..............................................................................................................
Product used: ................................................................................................................
Active ingredient and concentration: ..............................................................................
Date: ..............................................................................................................................

Details of any further treatments (if required): ..............................................................
...........................................................................................................................................

Date animals examined and found to be free of ectoparasites: ...........................................
...........................................................................................................................................

**Inspection and transport**

12. The animals were examined by an Official Veterinarian in the 72 hours prior to export, and were free from clinical evidence of infectious or contagious disease, external parasites, plant and seed contamination, and were healthy and fit to travel.

13. The containers used for transporting the animals were new or were cleaned and disinfected prior to loading. Any ventilation openings were covered in insect-proof mesh. Containers constructed of timber met the requirements of the wood packaging import health standard. (http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/imports/forests/standards/non-viable-forest-produce/wood-packaging-ihs.htm) and against insect infestation or fumigated prior to loading as required by MAF.

14. Only sterilised peat, soft board or other inert approved product was provided for bedding during transport.

15. During transport to the port of departure and during transit to New Zealand the animals were not transported with animals that are not eligible for export to New Zealand.
16. All food loaded for use during transport to the port of departure and during transit to New Zealand was free from evidence of contamination with ticks and weeds/weed seeds.

17. In the case of transport by:
   - Air: the transport facilities and arrangements meet the requirements published in the IATA Live Animal Regulations;
   - Sea: the transport facilities and arrangements have been inspected and meet the requirements of the Australian Marine Orders Part 43, Issue 2 (which is equivalent to the New Zealand Marine Rules Part 24C).

18. The container was fastened with an official seal bearing the number or mark:

Note: Official stamp, signature and date must be applied to all pages and any documents that form part of the extended certificate